

Thomas Jefferson to House of Representatives, December 15, 1806, Report, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.

Jefferson to Congress THE PRESIDENT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 15, 1806

I lay before congress a report of the surveyor of the public buildings, stating the progress made on them during the last season, and what is proposed for the ensuing one.

I took every measure within my power for carrying into effect the request of the house of representatives, of the 17th of April last,⁵⁴ to cause the south wing of the capitol to be prepared for their accommodation by the commencement of the present session. With great regret I found it was not to be accomplished. The quantity of free stone necessary, with the size and quality of many of the blocks, was represented as beyond what could be obtained from the quarries by any exertions which could be commanded. The other parts of the work which might all have been completed in time, were necessarily retarded by the insufficient progress of the stone work.

54 On April 17 the House “Resolved that the President of the United States be requested to take effectual measures to cause the south wing of the Capitol to be prepared for the accommodation of the House of Representatives, by the commencement of the next session of Congress.” Four days later, on April 21, the House voted a sum of \$40,000, “to be applied under the direction of the President of the United States, towards completing the south wing of the Capitol.”

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[Pp. 119–20, DOCUMENTARY HISTORY ... OF THE CAPITOL.]